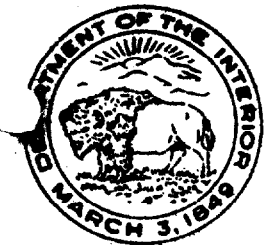


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN AUTHORIZED

Data on the amount of time and money that American sportsmen spend annually on hunting and fishing will be collected for the first time on a national basis, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence Davis announced today. The Fish and Wildlife Service will supervise the project and publish the final results.

This nationwide personal interview survey, scheduled to start next January after preliminary field-testing, will provide information on the number of persons (12 years of age or older) who participated in recreational hunting and fishing during calendar year 1955; the days spent by them in these pursuits; and the amount of money they spent which can be directly attributed to these sports.

No national survey of this scope has ever been conducted previously although a number of the States have carried out similar surveys within their own borders. Methods employed in these State surveys, however, varied to such an extent that it has been impossible to correlate the data for use on a national basis.

To obtain accurate data at the national level, the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, representing all of the 48 State fish and game departments, adopted a resolution at its meeting last September in Seattle, Wash., which requested the Fish and Wildlife Service to contract with a survey organization for a nationwide economic survey of hunting and sport fishing activities.

In implementing this resolution, the Service submitted a plan for a personal interview survey to 21 fact-finding organizations and invited specific proposals for conducting the study. Nine definite proposals were received. These were carefully reviewed by a committee composed of Service representatives and statistical experts from several Federal agencies. Crossley, S-D Surveys, Inc., of New York City, was the successful bidder and a contract was signed between that firm and the Fish and Wildlife Service on June 1.

A number of the State fish and game departments have indicated their interest in expanding the national survey for their particular State so as to obtain State estimates. These States will be able to conduct such surveys through individual contracts with Crossley, S-D Surveys.

Also, at the request of the International Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, the cost of the survey--\$134,000--will be financed from funds available to the Fish and Wildlife Service for administering the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs. These funds, under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts, are derived from the Federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, and on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial lures, baits, and flies.

State wildlife administrators have long recognized the need for data on the economic status of hunting and fishing which they can use in planning their programs for the management of these natural resources. The Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agencies dealing with wildlife, as well as numerous private conservation organizations, will also benefit from the results of such a survey which will provide an authentic measurement of the National interest in hunting and fishing.

Under the terms of the contract, the final statistical report on survey results must be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service by June 15, 1956. The results will be published as soon as possible by the Service and made available to all Federal, State, and private agencies interested in learning the impact of hunting and sport fishing on the National economy.

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